“Listen close to my poetry,

I examine this like an analyst,

to see if you can handle this” The Roots

Instructions: You just listened to The Roots from their album “Things Fall Apart.” The title of their album comes from the African novel “Things Fall Apart” by Chinua Achebe. He in turn found the title in a Yeats poem—an Irish poet. Read the first stanza of Yeats’ poem (found below). Pair up with your elbow partner and analyst the poem.

Turning and turning in the widening gynre

The falcon cannot hear the falconer;

Things fall apart; the center cannot hold,

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.

-W. B. Yeats, “The Second Coming”

Questions to jump start your discussion:

What is the poem saying? Africa and Ireland…What do they have in common? What are your thoughts on this poem? Like it? Hate it?